

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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TAGS: PFOR, GE, RO
SUBJECT: HONECKER VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SED GENERAL SECRETARY ERICH HONECKER'S THREE
DAY STATE AND PARTY VISIT TO ROMANIA FEBRUARY 4-6 HAS RECEIVED
DETAILED AND PROMINENT COVERAGE IN GDR MEDIA,
INCLUDING PUBLICATION IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF THE
RESULTING COMMUNIQUE AND THE HONECKER AND CEAUCESCU
TOASTS. DESCRIBING THE TALKS AS AN IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTION TO CONSOLIDATING COOPERATION AND
SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND COUNTRIES,
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THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES MUTUAL SATISFACTION THAT
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED
AND THAT CONCRETE MEASURES WERE TAKEN DURING THE
VISIT TO EXPAND COOPERATION. IN THEIR TOASTS BOTH
HONECKER AND CEAUSCESCU HIGHLIGHTED PROGRESS IN
BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR.

2. SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNIQUE TOUCHING ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT CONTAIN PASSAGES STRAIGHT FROM THE BERLIN CONFERENCE SELDOM SEEN IN ND: RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EACH PARTY. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO DECLARES THE RIGHT OF EACH PARTY TO DEVELOP INDEPENDENTLY ITS OWN STRATEGY AND TACTICS. AT THE SAME TIME BOTH PARTIES STATE THEIR INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "UNITY AND SOLIDARITY" OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AND WORKERS MOVEMENT AS WELL AS TO COOPERATION AMONG ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES. WHILE THE COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT MENTION "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM". HONECKER MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN A REFERENCE TO IT IN HIS TOAST, REFERRING TO PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AS A BASIS FOR THE GDR'S DEEPENING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA. STRONG PRAISE IN THE COMMUNIQUE FOR THE BUCHAREST WARSAW PACT PROPOSALS ON NON-FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS FITS IN WITH REPORTS THAT THE ROMANIANS WERE OUT IN FRONT ON THIS ISSUE AT THE BUCHAREST MEETING.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONTAINS WORDING SUITED TO EAST GERMANS ABOUT THE NEED TO COUNTER FIRMLY THE "INTRIGUES" OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION. IT FURTHER UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF CSCE AND COMES OUT FOR THE RESPECT FOR STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE INVIOABILITY OF BOUNDARIES, AS WELL AS AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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4. WE NOTE THAT WHILE HONECKER WAS IN ROMANIA, ND REPRINTED AN EDITORIAL FROM "SCIENTEIA" IN BUCHAREST FEBRUARY 5 GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF ROMANIAN SYMPATHY FOR RECENT GDR ACTIONS AGAINST THE FRG PERMREP IN EAST BERLIN. TITLED "ACTIONS BY WESTERN CIRCLES AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI," THE ROMANIAN COMMENTARY NOTED THAT IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES A PROPAGANDA EFFORT WAS UNDERWAY TO USE FAMILY REUNIFICATION AS A PRETEXT FOR INCREASING THE PROCESS OF EMIGRATION. SCIENTEIA CONCLUDED THAT THESE ATTEMPTS ONLY CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF BITTERNESS AND ENMITY BETWEEN THE PEOPLES AND FED POLITICAL TENSIONS, ALL CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY.

5. COMMENT: HONECKER' UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO BUCHAREST IS BEING USED IN THE GDR TO PLAY UP ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL AND INTER-PARTY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND ROMANIA.

REFERENCES IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO THE NEED TO COUNTER IMPERIALIST THREATS WILL INDICATED TO THE EST GERMAN POPULATION THAT EVEN THE ROMANIANS GAVE AT LEAST TACIT APPROVAL TO RECENT CONTROVERSIAL STEPS BY THE GDR DESIGNED TO GET A HANDLE ON FRG INFLUENCE AND THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM. THE GDR'S USE OF THE SCINTEIA EDITORIAL SERVES TO REINFORCE THIS IMPRESSION. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT POSSIBLE COORDINATIO ON THE QUESTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION PRIOR TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE MAY HAVE BEEN A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE HONECKER VISIT.

6. A ND EDITORIAL ON FEBRUARY 9 CALLS THE VISIT " AN EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT EVENT" AND GENERALLY PLAYS UP THE PROSPECTS OF DEEPENDING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND ROMANIA.

POLANSKY

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